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8-19-2016

# Speaker Series

University of Dayton

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### Recommended Citation

University of Dayton. "Speaker Series" (2016). [http://wayback.archive-it.org/4727/20160920160145/https://www.udayton.edu/news/articles/2016/08/speaker\\_series.php](http://wayback.archive-it.org/4727/20160920160145/https://www.udayton.edu/news/articles/2016/08/speaker_series.php)

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## NEWS



*Friday August 19, 2016*

## Speaker Series

The creator of PostSecret, a Harvard professor who ran for president and an Emmy Award winner are among those selected for this year's University of Dayton Speaker Series.

The series brings to campus a diverse group of speakers who have achieved substantial national or international recognition. Their talks are free, open to the public and no tickets are required.

While they are on campus, the speakers will also engage with students, faculty and staff in classrooms and other settings to advance learning and dialogue in the campus community.

“This year’s speakers were selected from among 90 nominations submitted by students, staff, faculty and campus organizations,” said Kathleen Watters, associate professor of communication and chair of the Speaker Series committee. “The speakers are distinguished scientists, educators and activists who will engage us in discussions on a wide range of timely and important issues, including race and diversity, climate change, mental illness and politics and citizenship.”

Frank Warren, founder of PostSecret.com, a website that displays a collection of highly personal secrets on postcards mailed anonymously from around the world, begins the series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in the Kennedy Union ballroom.

His talk, “The Power of Secrets: Inspiring Conversation,” is part of Suicide Prevention Week programming. Warren will discuss why he has made suicide awareness part of his life’s work. Audiences will also get to see postcards that were banned from his books, and have the opportunity to share their own secrets live during the interactive program. A book signing will immediately follow.

Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard Law professor who ran for the Democratic presidential nomination, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. His talk on “The Importance of the First Presidential Debate” comes just a week before the first debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. A book signing will immediately follow.

James Balog, an acclaimed photographer and founder of the Extreme Ice Survey, will speak as part of Sustainability Week programming at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. Balog’s Extreme Ice Survey is the most wide-ranging photographic study of glaciers ever conducted. He is a global spokesman on climate change and humans’ impact on the environment. His Emmy-award winning film, *Chasing Ice*, has been screened at the White House and United Nations. His talk, “When Mountains Move,” will be followed by a book signing.

Paul Loeb, whose *Soul Of a Citizen: Living With Conviction In Challenging Times* is a handbook for anyone wishing to make a difference, continues the series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. A book signing will follow.

Jelani Cobb, a New Yorker staff writer who focuses on race, the police and injustice, is the Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative speaker. His talk, “The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today,” will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. A book signing will immediately follow.

The series will conclude with the Stander Symposium keynote address on April 6, 2017. Details will be announced soon.

More information on the 2016-17 Speaker Series is [available online](#). Parking for the events is available without a permit in B and C lots only. Parking in any other campus lot requires a permit.

For more information, contact Meagan Pant, assistant director of media relations, at 937-229-3256 or [mpant1@udayton.edu](mailto:mpant1@udayton.edu).